

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1 490 090

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(21) Application No. 36754/74 (22) Filed 21 Aug. 1974

(23) Complete Specification filed 20 June 1975

(24) Complete Specification published 26 Oct. 1977

(51) INT CL. G09H 11/00

(52) Index at acceptance

G5C 57C 64A5

B6D 18 5 8D

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING
TO DISPLAY DEVICES

WE, BRITISH GAS CORPORATION, of 59 Brynston Street, London, W1A 2AZ, a British Body Corporate, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement.

The invention relates to display devices of the kind (hereinafter referred to as the kind specified) having a plurality of leaves for storing information to be displayed, which leaves are hingedly connected to a backing member for selective angular movements about the hinged connections between different positions at which the information on each leaf can be viewed or masked from view as desired.

According to the invention in a display device of the kind specified, the backing member is provided with means for supporting it in a substantially vertical position, the device being provided with catch means arranged in use of the device in said substantially vertical position, initially to retain the leaves in stepped overlapping, upwardly projecting positions and upon selective operation of the catch means to allow one or more leaves sequentially to drop gravitationally about their hinged connections to a downwardly projecting position whereby to display the information carried on exposed faces thereof.

In some cases, any number or all of those leaves which have been dropped to their downwardly projecting position in use of the device can be raised about their hinged connections to said upwardly projecting position and retained in this position by further selective operation of the catch means.

In such cases the catch means may be arranged to engage the lowermost of those leaves in said upwardly projecting position, the remainder of these leaves being retained in this position by virtue of them being in mutually overlapping engagement with each other. Preferably, the stepped overlapping

arrangement of the leaves (at least in said upwardly projecting position) is such that an outermost region of each leaf is always exposed to view and which region can therefore carry a legend indicative, e.g., of the contents of the information contained on the masked faces of the leaves. The term "outermost region" means the region nearest that edge of each leaf remote from its edge which is hingedly connected to the backing member.

Conveniently the leaves may be formed of any suitable sheet material or they may be formed as pockets, preferably of transparent material, having an opening through which sheets or cards containing display matter can be inserted into or removed from the pockets. By this method sheets or cards containing different display matter can be readily changed.

Also in such cases the catch member could consist of a pointer or bar arranged in use to engage the selected leaf adjacent its outermost region and adapted to be supported by the backing member for slidable movement in vertical directions over the leaves.

The information to be displayed may be carried on one face only of each leaf, although preferably since the front of one leaf and the back of another leaf will usually be exposed to view upon a selective operation of the catch means, then information could conveniently be carried on both sides of each leaf.

Such a display device according to the present invention could be used in many applications where a collection of different bits of information is required to be referred to quickly and in an easily identifiable and readily available form, such as might be required, for example, in cooking recipes, stock lists, instruction sheets, calendars, diaries, map charts, telephone numbers etc.

In other cases, particularly where the leaves are formed of sheet material, the catch means may consist of a strip member



which, in use of the device, is adapted for sequential removal from a selected number of the lowermost leaves in said upwardly projecting position, and when removed will allow the selected leaf or leaves thereby released to drop to said downwardly projecting position. Conveniently, the or each strip member could consist of a tear-off strip formed in the manufacture of the device. This form of display device would be suitable, for example, for used as a calendar in which each successive leaf, starting with said lowermost leaf, once selected by removing its strip member and exposing the monthly legends thereon, would not normally be required to be reinstated to its initial position.

The means for supporting the device in its substantially vertical position so that it is readily available to a user could take any convenient form, for example, hook and eye, suction or magnetic devices or possibly self-adhesive means.

One embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawing in which:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a display device as it might appear in use,

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the device in the position shown in figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a sectional plan view on the line III—III of figure 1. The display device diagrammatically illustrated would for example, be suitable for use as a cooking recipe chart. It consists of a stiff backing sheet 1 having an eyelet hole 2 by which the chart would conveniently be hung upright on a hook in a kitchen, a plurality of leaves in the form of transparent pockets 3 hingedly connected to the backing sheet 1 by hinge strips 4 and each having an opening (not shown) along at least one vertical edge thereof for the insertion or removal of a recipe sheet 5, and a catch member 6 including a pointer 7 adapted to be slidably supported through a vertical slot 8 in the backing sheet 1. Preferably, the catch member 6 is supported by a channel-like cover 9 fixed to the rear side of the backing sheet 1 for improving the stability of the catch member in use.

In Figures 1 and 2, the chart is shown in a condition where, by way of demonstration only, a particular recipe has been selected by sliding the catch pointer 7 vertically upwards from an initial position (at which it caused all the pockets 3 to be retained in their overlapped upwardly projecting position) to an outermost region of a pocket 3 bearing the legend 10 which is representative of the recipe required by the user, each pocket bearing a different representative legend 10 at its outermost region.

It will be seen that such a selection has allowed three of the pockets 3 to fall gravitationally to their downwardly projecting position (as shown) whereby to display the recipe contained collectively on the exposed sheets 5 in the appropriate pockets 3.

After use of that particular recipe, a different recipe can be chosen by an appropriate upward movement of the catch pointer 7, thus allowing more pockets to drop gravitationally. Alternatively, a different recipe can be chosen from those pockets already in their "dropped" positions (or the chart can be restored to its said initial position) by first raising any number or all of the "dropped" pockets to their upwardly projecting overlapped position and then sliding the catch pointer 7 downwardly to a position adjacent a newly selected legend 10 and thereby retain the raised pockets in position.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A display device of the kind specified wherein the backing member is provided with means for supporting it in a substantially vertical position, the device being provided with catch means arranged, in use of the device in said substantially vertical position, initially to retain the leaves in stepped overlapping upwardly projecting positions and upon selective operation of the catch means to allow one or more leaves sequentially to drop gravitationally about their hinged connections to a downwardly projecting position thereby to display the information carried on exposed faces thereof.

2. A display device according to claim 1, wherein any number or all of those leaves which have been dropped to their downwardly projecting position in use of the device can be raised about their hinged connections to said upwardly projecting position and retained in this position by further selective operation of the catch means.

3. A display device according to claim 2, wherein the catch means is arranged to engage the lowermost of those leaves in said upwardly projecting position in use of the device, the remainder of these leaves being retained in this position by virtue of them being in mutually overlapping engagement with each other.

4. A display device according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the overlapped arrangement of the leaves (at least in said upwardly projecting position) is such that an outermost region (as hereinbefore defined) of each leaf is always exposed to view and which region can therefore carry a legend indicative of the contents of the information contained on the masked faces of the leaves.

5. A display device according to claim 4, wherein the catch member consists of a pointer or bar arranged in use of the device to engage the selected leaf adjacent said outermost region and adapted to be supported by the backing member for slidable movement in vertical directions over the leaves.

6. A display device according to any preceding claim, wherein the said information to be displayed is carried on both sides of each leaf.

7. A display device according to any preceding claim, wherein the leaves are formed as pockets of transparent material, each pocket having an opening through which sheets or cards containing display matter can be inserted into or removed from the pocket.

8. A display device according to claim 1,

wherein the leaves are formed of sheet material, and wherein the catch means consists of a strip member which, in use, is adapted for sequential removal from a selected number of the lowermost leaves in said upwardly projecting position so as to allow the selected leaf or leaves, thereby released to drop to said downwardly projecting position.

9. A display device according to claim 8, wherein the or each strip member consists of a tear-off strip formed in the manufacture of the device.

10. A display device of the kind specified substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the three figures of the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.

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Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by the Courier Press, Leamington Spa, 1977.
Published by the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2A 1AY, from which copies may be obtained.

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1 SHEET

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale

Fig. 1.

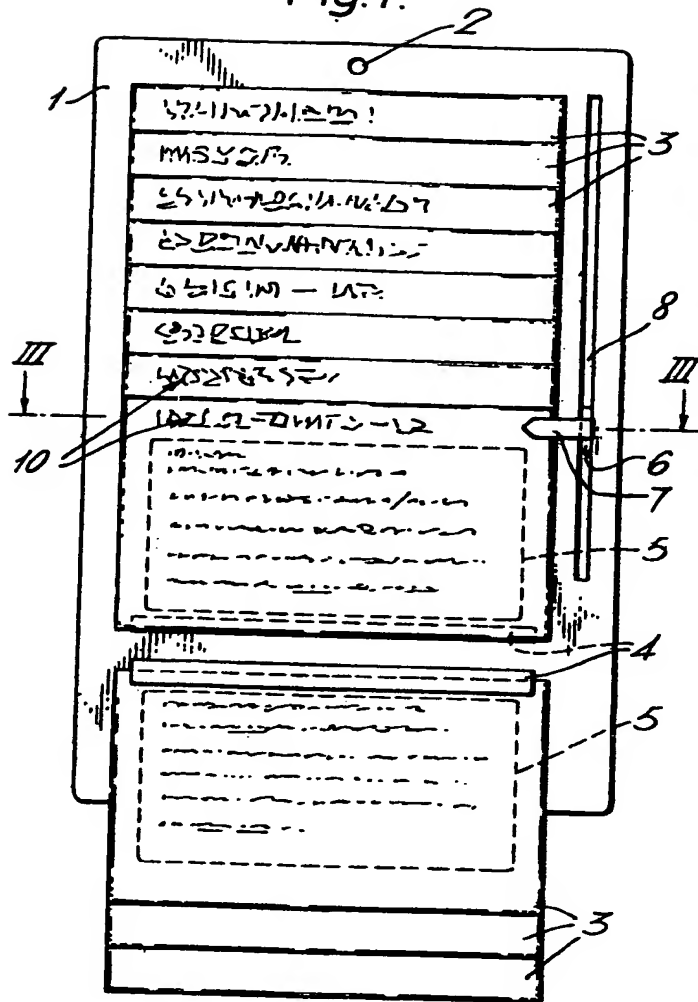


Fig. 2.

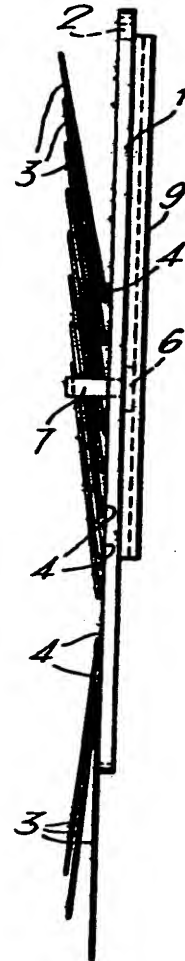
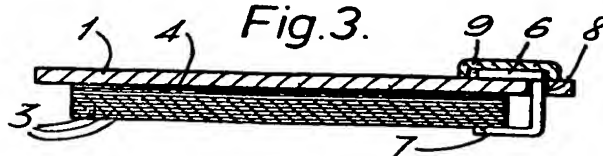


Fig. 3.



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